

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

YOUR GUIDE TO SWITCHING TO EDUQAS

[EDUQAS.CO.UK/ENGLISH](https://www.eduqas.co.uk/english)

WHY SWITCH TO EDUQAS FOR GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE?

Switch to Eduqas for an accessible, engaging GCSE English Language qualification.

Eduqas' [GCSE English Language](#) qualification provides learners with the opportunity to develop their ability to read fluently, understand texts and communicate effectively.

We have designed our GCSE English Language assessments to be accessible for both learners studying the qualification for the first time and for re-sit learners.

Our questions are clearly worded and logically structured, and offer flexibility for learners.



More reasons to choose Eduqas

- Accessible, reliable assessment
- Easy access to specialist subject support
- Free high-quality teaching resources
- Expert-led training opportunities

ACCESSIBLE , FLEXIBLE ASSESSMENT THAT FITS YOUR LEARNERS

Real-World Skills Prioritisation

Paper 2 Non-Fiction has a higher tariff (60%) than Paper 1 Fiction (40%), emphasizing crucial 'real-world' skills for students' futures.

More Narrative Writing Options

Eduqas English Language exam offers four choices of narrative writing titles.

Co-teachability

Eduqas English Literature and Language qualifications can be taught side-by-side for seamless learning.

Time Management

Consistent 10 mark 'long tariff' questions simplify time management in exams, enabling a strategic approach for students. Learners can approach all these questions in the same way:

- Focus (on the question)
- Track (chronologically)
- Range (different aspects of meaning)

Realistic Contexts

Our non-fiction writing tasks are set in relatable, realistic contexts that encourage learners to develop vital 'real world' writing skills, and make the qualification engaging for all learners, including re-sit learners'.

Transactional Writing Range

Two shorter tasks instead of one long task showcases a broader skill set.

How do we compare with other boards?

Assessment Comparison Tool included at the end of this guide

ALL THE SUPPORT YOU NEED TO TEACH WITH CONFIDENCE

Alongside our clear and accessible approach to assessment, Eduqas also offers a comprehensive package of support for teachers:

Easy access to support, including free in-person visits

Our subject experts are just an email or call away. Eduqas teachers can also access free advice and guidance both online or in-person from our Regional Support Team.

Free high-quality teaching resources

Our free online teaching resources are designed by an expert team to help guide teachers and learners through our specifications, and include:

- Exam Walkthroughs
- Knowledge Organisers
- Interactive Online Blended Learning materials
- An extensive range of Student Exemplars.

Expert-led training opportunities

Our comprehensive programme includes both free online exam feedback sessions and paid face-to-face training opportunities.

Comprehensive Assessment Feedback

Eduqas centres can access our free post-exam [Assessment Feedback package](#), including access to marked scripts, Principal Examiner reports and online feedback sessions.

Get more reasons to switch at [eduqas.co.uk/switch](https://www.eduqas.co.uk/switch)



SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT

Component 1: 20th Century Literature and Creative Prose Writing

Exam: 1 hour 45 min, 40%

- Section A (20%): Reading comprehension of a 20th-century prose extract (60-100 lines) via structured questions
- Section B (20%): Creative writing task chosen from four options

Component 2: 19th and 21st Century Non-Fiction and Writing

Exam: 2 hours, 60%

- Section A (30%): Reading comprehension of two non-fiction extracts (900-1200 words total) via structured questions
- Section B (30%): Two compulsory transactional/persuasive writing tasks

Component 3: Spoken Language

Non-Exam Assessment: Unweighted

- Presentation/speech with Q&A and feedback
- Reported as part of the qualification, not included in final grade

How do we compare with other boards?

Assessment Comparison Tool included at the end of this guide

HOW TO SWITCH TO EDUQAS

Switching to Eduqas is a straightforward, three-step process:

1

Register your interest in teaching with Eduqas

Visit [eduqas.co.uk/switch](https://www.eduqas.co.uk/switch) and complete the Register Your Interest form. This helps us better support you through the switching process.

2

Ask your Exams Officer if your centre is registered with Eduqas

If not, they will need to contact us at centres@wjec.co.uk to register. Once your centre is registered, your Exams Officer can provide you with access to our Portal, which you will need to complete key processes and access exclusive resources.

3

Visit your qualification page for everything you need to get started

You can find this by going to [eduqas.co.uk/qualifications](https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications) and searching for your subject. Here you'll find links to everything you need to start teaching with Eduqas:

- Your specification
- Guidance for teaching
- Contact details for your Subject Officer
- Free digital teaching resources
- Training opportunities
- Key dates for your qualification
- Past Papers and Mark Schemes

Now you're ready to start teaching with Eduqas – but if you need more guidance, contact our Support Team on hereforyou@eduqas.co.uk, or discover training opportunities at [eduqas.co.uk/professionallearning](https://www.eduqas.co.uk/professionallearning)

OUR FREE ONLINE RESOURCES



Blended Learning Modules

Each of our interactive online Blended Learning Modules covers a key topic, providing clear lesson objectives for learners before setting a range of tasks such as questions to answer on-screen, prompts for written work and downloadable practice exam questions.

Teachers can use our Blended Learning resources alongside traditional teaching methods in the classroom, or set them as online self-study exercises for learners to tackle at home.

Exam Walkthroughs

Exam Walkthroughs offer learners the opportunity to explore mock assessment papers through a narrated presentation full of helpful tips.

This resource is designed to help learners develop their exam technique and familiarise themselves with the structure and style of our exam papers.



OUR FREE ONLINE RESOURCES



Knowledge Organisers

Our Knowledge Organisers collect all the key information on a topic of study into an easy-to-digest format.

They're an ideal self-study or revision tool for learners, but they can also be useful for teachers in the classroom as the basis of quizzes or discussions.

Explore our full range of resources:
www.eduqas.co.uk/resources



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Eduqas offers a comprehensive range of professional learning opportunities to help you teach with confidence.

Our expert-led training programme provides all the support you need to enhance your teaching and successfully deliver our qualifications.

Assessment Feedback Package

Our Assessment Feedback Package is an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of how assessments are marked or moderated.

This integrated suite of resources and training includes:

- Free access to Principal Examiner reports
- Free Online Assessment Feedback sessions
- Paid face-to-face training events
- Free access to scripts

Learn more: [eduqas.co.uk/professionallearning](https://www.eduqas.co.uk/professionallearning)



WHAT TEACHERS SAY ABOUT ENGLISH WITH EDUQAS



“As an experienced English teacher, I have used all the main examination boards and have never received the kind of support that the Eduqas team have offered.”

Kate Williams

Lead in English

Calday Grange Grammar School



“The Eduqas team have always been helpful and friendly when we’ve needed them... we’ve also found Eduqas’ exams less unpredictable than those of some of the larger exam boards, and more accessible.”

Emma Stockill

Head of English

Scalby School, Scarborough

ACCESSING SUPPORT

Our **Regional Support Team** operates across the UK, and is available to help you teach Eduqas qualifications with confidence.

As an Eduqas teacher, you can access their support for free online or in-person at a time and place that suits you.

Each member of the team is an experienced former teacher who understands the challenges of the classroom.

They can provide you with all the support you need to help your learners succeed, including:

- help switching to Eduqas
- expert insight into your specification
- answers to your questions on assessment
- guidance on accessing our free digital resources, and more.

Contact the team:
hereforyou@eduqas.co.uk

MEET YOUR GCSE ENGLISH REP



Catherine Oldham

Catherine has extensive experience in the secondary education sector, both as Head of English at a large sixth form college, and as a Subject Officer at another major exam board.

Catherine has also been closely involved in the development of specifications and teaching resources:

“My role as an Eduqas Regional Rep involves supporting teachers in delivering our qualifications both online and in-person.

The most fulfilling part of the role for me is when teachers say that my support sessions have helped them in preparing their students, and that they can see definite improvements in results.

If I had to sum up what makes Eduqas special, I think it's our focus on giving learners the opportunity to show what they can do - our assessments put accessibility first and foremost.”

Thinking of switching? Contact Catherine at hereforyou@eduqas.co.uk or [request an informal online chat through our booking page](#).

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A photograph of a male teacher with glasses and a beard, wearing a dark blue suit and a teal tie, leaning over a table in a library. He is smiling and looking at a book held by a young man. Two other students, a young woman and another young man, are also seated at the table, looking at the book. The background is filled with bookshelves containing various books. The scene is lit with warm, orange-toned light from above.

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

ASSESSMENT COMPARISON TOOL

ASSESSMENT COMPARISON TOOL

Eduqas' GCSE English Language assessments provide learners with the opportunity to show that they can understand texts, and that they can communicate effectively for a given audience and purpose.

Use the table below to find out how our assessments compare to those of other exam boards:

Feature	eduqas	AQA
Specification		
Component 1	105 minutes	105 minutes
Reading	One 20th literary prose extract (20%)	One 20th/21st century literary prose extract (25%)
Writing Task	Creative prose (20%)	Creative prose (25%)
Component 2	120 minutes	105 minutes
Reading	19th and 21st century non-fiction (30%)	19th and 20th/21st century non-fiction (25%)
Writing Task	Task 1 - Transactional / persuasive (15%) Task 2 - Transactional / persuasive (15%)	Specified purpose, audience, and form (25%)
Component 3	Spoken Language presentation (reported separately)	

Our assessment of Reading requires comprehension and selection of relevant detail, while our assessment of Writing requires an appropriate choice of content shaped for its purpose. In both Reading and Writing, learners only need to write about or use 'techniques' where they are relevant and enhance their understanding or communication.

OCR	Pearson	Pearson 2.0
Specification		
120 minutes	105 minutes	115 minutes
Two 20th/21st century prose extracts, at least one literary (25%)	One 19th century literary prose extract (15%)	Two 19th Century non-fiction texts (25%)
Creative prose (25%)	Imaginative prose (25%)	Transactional (25%)
120 minutes	120 minutes	115 minutes
19th and 20th/21st century non-fiction (25%)	20th and 21st century non-fiction (35%)	20th and 21st Century fiction and non-fiction (25%)
Specified audience and purpose (25%)	Transactional (25%)	Creative prose (25%)
Spoken Language presentation (reported separately)		

[Reading & Writing »](#)

Feature	eduqas	AQA
Reading		
Tariff Distribution	Paper 2 Non-Fiction: 60%, Paper 1 Fiction: 40% - prioritizes 'real-world' skills	Paper 1 Fiction: 50% Paper 2 Non-Fiction: 50%
Accessible, Engaging Texts	20th Century Fiction text with clear narrative arc and resolution	Uses 'extracts' of texts.
Consistent Long Answer Questions		Final reading questions worth 20 and 16 marks
Consistency of Approach	All long answer questions are approached the same way, focusing on meaning	Different approaches needed for each question. Questions often based on language rather than content
Writing		
Narrative Writing Choice	Four narrative choices - encourages strong, authentic narrative voice	One descriptive piece or one narrative title - descriptive can become a series of techniques
Transactional Writing Range	Clear audience and purpose; two shorter tasks to show range.	One long response with no options - potentially limiting for learners

OCR	Pearson	Pearson 2.0
Reading		
Paper 1 Non-Fiction: 50% Paper 2 Fiction: 50%	Paper 1 Fiction: 40% Paper 2 Non-Fiction: 60%	Paper 1 Non-Fiction: 50% Paper 2 Fiction and Literary Non-Fiction: 50%
Uses 'extracts'; two Fiction texts.	19th Century Fiction text - may be less accessible.	Uses 'extracts'; two 19th Century texts.
Final reading questions worth 18 marks each.	Final reading questions worth 15 and 20 marks.	Final reading questions worth 12 and 16 marks.
Different approaches needed for each question. Questions often based on language rather than content.		
Writing		
Two task choices.	One long response from two choices - tasks linked to reading. Potentially limiting for learners	
One long response with no options - potentially limiting for learners		